

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

The allowance of claims 27-37 is acknowledged.

The indication that claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is acknowledged with appreciation. Claim 38 is claim 14 rewritten in independent form. Thus, claim 38 should be allowed as well.

Claims 1, 10, 13 and 15 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pfenninger, Jr., et al. and Cartwright et al. (of record). Claims 1, 9, 16, 24 and 26 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Venable et al. in view of Pfenninger, Jr., et al.

Claims 10, 16, 24 and 26 have been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features that the housing has at least two housing parts which are assembled together to define a chamber. A cylindrical gasket made of resilient material is in the chamber and encircles the input shaft, the gasket has a cylindrical inner surface and a ribbed outer surface. The housing parts have annular ribs engagable with the outer surface of the gasket and press into the resilient material of the gasket to form the ribbed outer surface when the housing parts are assembled together. The ribbed outer surface of the gasket is interdigitated with the annular ribs of the housing to resist relative axial movement between the gasket and the housing.

Antecedent basis for these claim amendments is found in the specification on pages 4-5 and 15.

None of the cited prior art disclose a gasket made of resilient material and a housing which has annular ribs engagable with the outer surface of the gasket and press into the resilient material of the gasket to form the ribbed outer surface of the gasket when the housing parts are assembled together.

Regarding the reference to Pfenninger, et al., col. 3 lines 20-30, a layer of elastic material 22 is placed between the inner and outer rings and bonded to the surface thereof to hold the rings together. Pfenninger et al. does not disclose a gasket with a ribbed outer surface that is formed when the housing parts are assembled together. Thus, claim 1 should be allowable.

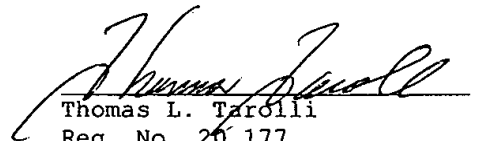
Claims 9, 13 and 15 depend from claim 1 and define over the prior art for the same reasons as claim 1 and for the specific limitations recited therein. Thus, claims 9, 13 and 15 should be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Serial No. 09/684,729

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in  
the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account  
No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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